



UMass, Razorbacks look to dethrone Heels

by Rob Graham
assistant sports editor

1. North Carolina

The ACC has brought the National Championship home the past three years. Is there any doubt that the Tar Heels, with this year's heralded recruiting class headed by 6-6 Jerry Stackhouse and 6-10 Rasheed Wallace, shouldn't bring a fourth consecutive championship back to the hills along Tobacco Road.

Dean Smith has four returning starters, including 7-foot Eric Montross, the premiere center in the nation. Look for Final Four MVP Donald Williams to improve on his 14.3 scoring average. He's almost automatic from downtown. Derrick Phelps, perhaps the Heels' most valuable player, will play a paramount role in the team's success.

A bulked-up Kevin Salvadori and Wallace form an intimidating frontcourt rotation. Stackhouse will likely replace George Lynch at power forward. He will help Carolina fans remember the days of Michael Jordan.

The Tar Heels were upset in overtime by the Minutemen of Massachusetts last week and you might attribute the loss to coach Smith's decision to leave Montross in with four fouls early in the second half. He fouled out with almost six minutes to play and Salvadori followed quickly after that. Smith will have to avoid the rotation problems he has had in the past with many of his great recruiting classes. Another weakness UNC has is its problems with athletic and scrappy teams. UMass outrebounded the taller and stronger Tar Heels 54-52.

2. Arkansas

Watch out for the Razorbacks. Coach Nolan Richardson has three returning starters and 6-11 freshman Darnell Robinson to roam the paint. Of the three starters returning, 6-5 Scotty Thurman (17.4 ppg, 4.4 rpg) and 6-7 Corliss Williamson (14.6 ppg, 5.1 rpg) will anchor Arkansas' famed "40 minutes of hell" full-court pressure.

Even though the Razorbacks won the Western Division of the SEC last season, they were outrebounded by a league-worst average of 6.6 per game. Richardson grabbed Robinson and another 6-11 prospect, Lee Wilson, on his recruiting journeys and will expect them to reverse that statistic and give the Razorbacks an added addition to their full-court traps.

Remember, this team took North Carolina to overtime last year in the Sweet 16, before bowing out 101-94.

3. Kentucky

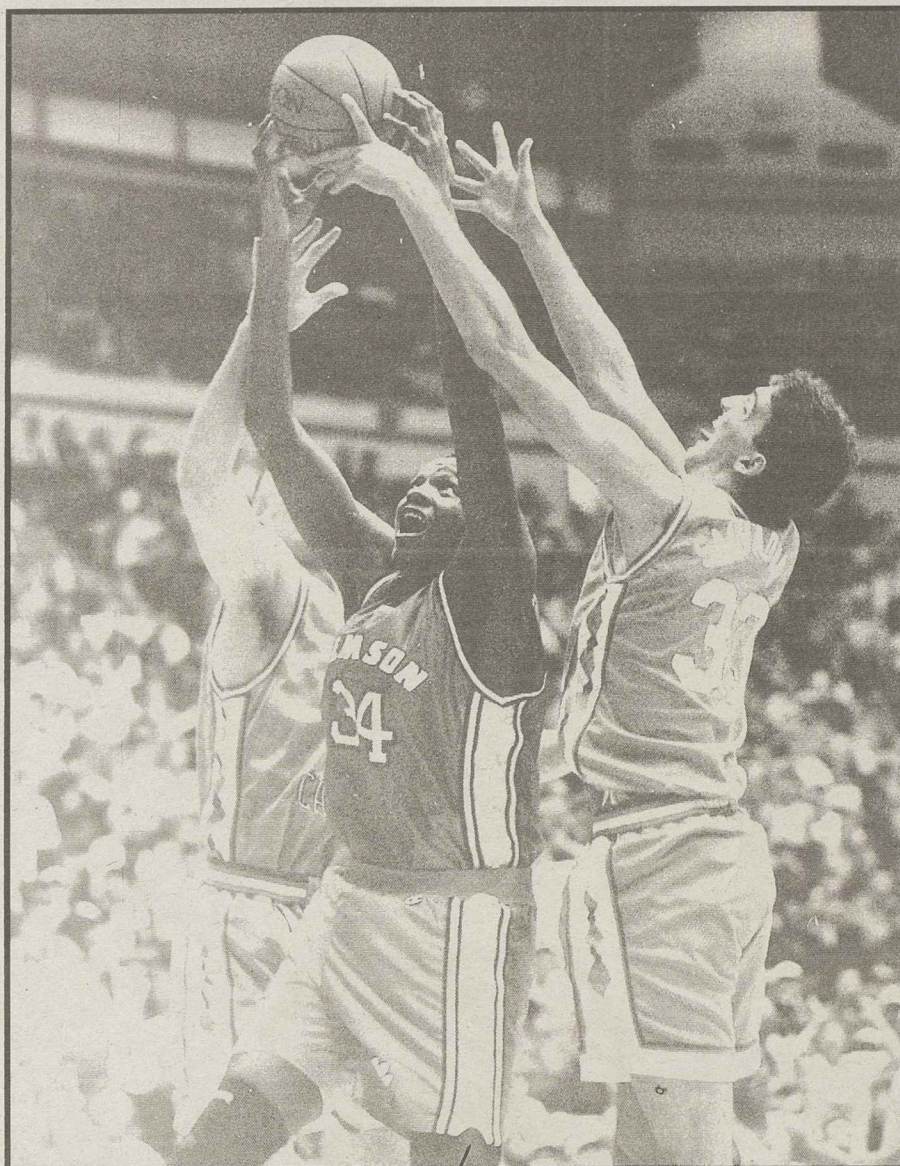
The Wildcats are back, but are without All-American Jamal Mashburn, their trifecta threat of John Pelphrey, Richie Farmer, Deron Feldhaus and Sean Woods and their defensive stopper, Dale Brown. Who's left for coach Rick Pitino?

All-Conference point guard Travis Ford returns for one more season and will be expected to penetrate more with Mashburn gone. Ford ranked fourth nationally in three-point accuracy last season as he made 101 three-pointers at a 52.9 percent accuracy rate. Sophomore Rodrick Rhodes has to become more of an offensive factor this year. Look for 6-9 Jared Prickett, 6-10 Rodney Dent and 6-9 Andre Riddick to come up big at both ends of the floor for Pitino.

The Cats knocked off Louisville last Saturday and with that win came sophomore Tony Delk's 19 points and 10 rebounds. If Pitino can get that kind of play from Delk or 6-9 heralded sophomore Walter McCarty, the Cats could claw their way to a National Championship. The intensity of their full-court press will take them a long way.

4. Kansas

Who would have thought that coach Roy Williams and the Kansas Jayhawks would come away with this year's pre-season NIT Championship after losing



file photo

The Tar Heels will look to sandwich ACC opponents this year.

four starters from last year's Final Four squad?

Well, they did and in impressive fashion. Richard Scott, a 6-7 senior forward, picked up the tournament MVP trophy as he averaged 18 points in each of the four games. Greg Ostertag, a 7-2 junior center, needs to stay on the floor for the Jayhawks and become an offensive force. Steve Woodberry, a 6-4 guard, will draw the major defensive assignments and 6-8 senior Patrick Richey has great touch for a big man.

But where Kansas succeeded in the NIT was with their recruiting class. Jaque Vaughn has been handed the job as floor general and was a major factor in the NIT Championship game against UMass (He dished out 10 assists and didn't turn the ball over). Scott Pollard, a 6-11 forward/center, was big coming off the bench in the tournament and will give Ostertag breathers and coach Williams some quality minutes.

The only question with this team is who will step up as the go-to guy. Scott and Woodberry are the likely candidates, but Woodberry might feel the effects of the tough defensive assignment towards the end of the game.

5. California

Jason Kidd, a 6-4 sophomore point guard, is possibly the best in the nation at his position. Kidd broke the school-record for assists last season with 222 and led the nation in steals (110). He averaged 13 points, eight assists and 3.8 steals per game last year. He will only get better with game he plays.

Lamond Murray returns after a 19 ppg, 6.3 rpg campaign last season and is the Golden Bears' go-to guy. He lit up Duke in the NAAs last year for 28 points.

Another starter, 6-9 power forward Alfred Grigsby, led the Pac-10 in shooting percentage (59.8 percent), but needs to be more consistent with his strong play.

Coach Todd Bozeman also opens this season with one of the best recruiting classes. Leading the class is two 6-10 centers, Sean Marks and Michael Stewart. Anwar McQueen, a 6-1 freshman from Washington D.C., will back Kidd up at the

point guard position.

6. Massachusetts

Massachusetts 91
North Carolina 86 OT

Who would have thought this would happen in the semifinals of this year's Preseason NIT? But it did folks and this team is for real! Coach John Calipari and the Minutemen have already established themselves as the team to beat in the Atlantic 10 and a serious contender for the national title.

Lou Roe, a 6-7 junior forward, has carried the team on his shoulders so far. In the NIT, he hit for 28 points against UNC and 25 points against Kansas. He's a monster on the boards and a great finisher. His only weakness is his horrific free-throw percentage. In the UNC and Kansas games, he was a combined 11 of 35 from the strike. Mike Williams and Derek Kellogg will provide the outside threats and 6-6 sophomore forward Dana Dingle will provide more scoring and rebounding.

Freshman center Marcus Camby will be a dominant force in the paint. He is super quick and can swat shots like flies. He went down with knee injury in the overtime period against the Tar Heels, but it should only keep him out about two weeks. Donta Bright will begin his collegiate career after sitting out last season for academic reasons. He's an outstanding player and will make an immediate impact. He poured in 28 against Oklahoma on Sunday.

UMass will break teams down with their relentless full-court pressure and should power their way to the Final Four. And check this out—there are no seniors on this team.

7. Temple

John Chaney has all five starters back this season. They took him to the Final Eight last year before bowing out to Michigan.

Eddie Jones and Aaron McKie are back for their final season. McKie poured in 20.6 points a game and Jones scored 17 points per game. McKie is the reigning Atlantic 10 player of the year and ranked second in the conference in steals. Derrick

Battie, a 6-9 power forward, showed promise for Chaney in last year's tournament.

But if the Owls want to contend for a national title, they have to get stronger play from 6-11 sophomore Willie Cunningham. He'll be expected to take some pressure off the perimeter shooters. Rick Brunson returns as the Owls' floor general. He averaged 14 points a game last season.

The only questions the Owls have to answer is who will establish themselves as quality bench players. Chaney's two recruits failed to qualify academically. Temple will also have to deal with the toughest schedule in Division I play.

8. Michigan

The Wolverines return four of the Fab Five. Who's missing? Chris Webber. With Webber absent, guards Jalen Rose and Jimmy King, small forward Ray Jackson and center Juwan Howard will carry the Wolverines. Look for coach Steve Fischer to run different offenses at different stages of the game.

The termination of the five-second rule will help Michigan. It will enable Rose, at 6-8, to back smaller guards down into the paint and shoot right over the top of them. Look for Rose and Howard to score a lot more.

Fischer's recruiting class suffered with the presence of the Fab Five. It isn't that strong, but he's banking on 6-7 forward Olivier Saint Jean to contribute. Bobby Crawford, a 6-3 guard is probably the best out of this year's class. Fischer will develop him into a point guard.

9. Louisville

Denny Crum will return three starters led by last season's Metro Conference player of the year, Clifford Rozier. Rozier is simply awesome. The 6-9 center reached double figures in points and rebounds in 18 games last year. He burned Kentucky for 29 points and 12 rebounds in the Cards' opener, last Saturday.

Dwayne Morton, a 6-6 forward, ranked third nationally in three-pointers made and will anchor Louisville's perimeter attack that set a school record for three-point shots last year. Greg Minor will start at the off-guard position. He's an excellent defender and can shoot the three.

Crum will likely start two freshmen from his recruiting class. DeJuan Wheat will be expected to run the floor for the Cards and their success will depend on his play. Jason Osbourne, a 6-8 forward, will be the other starter. He was voted Mr. Basketball in Kentucky last year and has incredible ball-handling and passing skills for his size.

The Cards are susceptible to a strong and active full-court press.

10. Duke

Mike Krzyzewski will start the '93-94 season with perhaps his weakest team in several years. Weak meaning a lot of question marks.

Grant Hill returns for one more season. He will be expected to do the majority of the Devils' scoring. He can be counted on when the game is on the line.

Cherokee Parks will be the big man in the middle. He averaged 13 points and seven rebounds a game last season and will be asked to become more of a dominant force. He will be backed up by two freshmen, 6-11 Greg Newton and 6-9 Joey Beard. It's possible that Krzyzewski will play Newton, Parks, Beard and Hill at one time. That could be an overpowering team, but once again, Beard and Newton are only freshmen.

Chris Collins will be expected to knock down the three, as will Marty Clark, who may run the point. Antonio Lang will look to increase his scoring and freshman point guard Jeff Capel, will be Duke's future at point guard.

But Duke will have to get major contributions from other players besides Hill, if they wish to bring a National Championship home to Cameron.



ACC Preview:

Royal and baby blue; what's new?

by Edan Ballantine
assistant sports editor

The jugular vein of the Atlantic Coast stretches from Tallahassee through Tobacco Road and ends at College Park, Md. Every November, that lifeline stretches taut with anticipation, awaiting the first bounce of a basketball.

The basketball analysts think the ACC is in a "down year". Other leagues should be so lucky.

North Carolina has Eric Montross.

Duke has Grant Hill.

Georgia Tech has James Forrest.

Florida State has Bob Sura.

Wake Forest has Randolph Childress.

Virginia has Cory Alexander.

Clemson has Sharone Wright.

North Carolina State and Maryland both have red uniforms.

The last time the ACC was considered to be in a "down year" was 1989. The regular season champion that year was Clemson, led by a slender center named Elden Campbell. If the Tigers hope to repeat the 1989-90 season with the help of another slender center, Sharone Wright, they will have to compete with some pretty tough competition.

Defending National Champion and top-ranked North Carolina

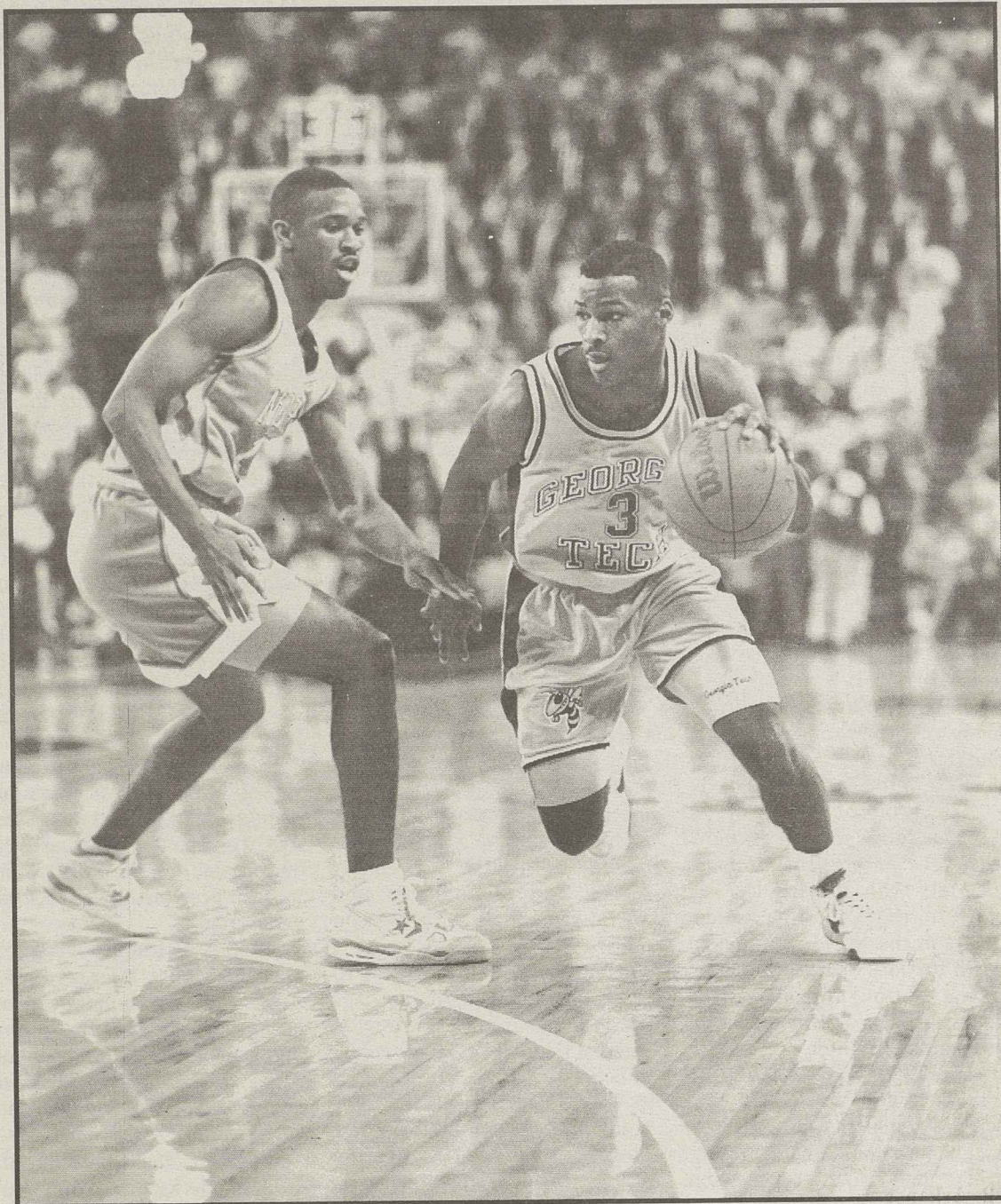
Both Travis Best and Derrick Phelps will try to push their respective teams toward the ACC championship.

lost all-ACC forward George Lynch to the Los Angeles Lakers and starting guard Heinrich Rodl to graduation, but added the top recruit in America, center Rasheed Wallace, and the No. 2 recruit, forward Jerry Stackhouse. Also added to the roster is redshirt freshman Serge Zwikker from Holland.

The strongest asset for the Tar Heels this year is their size and strength. Montross, the All-American center of the team, averaged 15.8 points per game, along with 7.6 rebounds per game a year ago. Joining him in the middle will be seven-footer Kevin Salvadori, who blocked 46 shots last season. 7-2 Zwikker and 6-11 Wallace will complement the two to provide a cumbersome obstacle to their opponents' inside game.

The 'Heels can also shoot the rock. Donald Williams averaged 14.3 points a game last season, and shot 40 percent from the three-point line. Brian Reese scored 11.4 points per game and also shot 35 percent from down-

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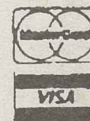
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ACC, from page 3

town

The floor leader of the team will be senior point guard Derrick Phelps. Phelps reached seventh place in the Tar Heel record books for assists (461) with 196 last year.

Although they are perhaps the team to beat this season, Carolina has shown their vulnerability as well, losing in the preseason NIT 91-86 to the University of Massachusetts. However, if Montross and Salvadori can stay out of foul trouble, and Wallace can be relied on to provide quality back-up minutes as he gains experience, then it won't be a surprise to see the 'Heels playing for the National Championship once again this year.

Bobby Hurley is still wearing a blue uniform, though he's playing for the Sacramento Kings instead of the Duke Blue Devils.

The National Champions of 1990-91 and 1991-92 suffered through the loss of Christian Laettner with an early loss last year to the California Golden Bears in the NCAA tournament. With the loss of Hurley and last year's starting two-guard, Thomas Hill, this year's fortunes don't look much brighter.

However, sixth-ranked Duke can never be underrated and, with National Player-of-the-Year candidate and All-American Grant Hill returning for his final season, the Blue Devils will give the Tar Heels a fight for the Tobacco Road championship. Coach Mike

Krzyzewski is known for bringing out the most in his players, and this season may be his biggest challenge in quite a long time.

Hill is obviously the best player on the team, averaging 18 points and 6.4 rebounds per game a season ago. Junior center Cherokee Parks returns from a successful campaign last year in which he averaged 12.3 points per game and led the team in rebounding at 6.9 per game. The third and final returning starter from last year's 24-8 squad is senior Antonio Lang, who averaged 6.9 points and 5.5 rebounds per contest.

Tri-captain Marty Clark will vie for a starting role. Clark averaged 7.3 points and shot over 40 percent from beyond the three-point line. Sophomore guard Chris Collins, junior center Erik Meek and junior guard Kenny Blakeney all will be relied upon to contribute heavily. High school All-Americans Joey Beard and Jeff Capel will also have a chance to play as freshmen.

The Virginia Cavaliers won the NIT tournament two years ago and made the NCAA tournament last year. The Cavs clearly seem like a team on the rise and are ranked 12th in the preseason polls.

However, with a 77-36 loss to UConn Monday night, perhaps the Wahoos aren't as strong as some of the pollsters have led us to believe.

This season belongs to junior point guard Cory Alexander. Alexander averaged 18.8 points per game a year ago and was named second-team all-ACC. Junior forward Junior Burroughs was second on the team in scoring

(14.6), rebounding (7.2) and blocked shots (27). Beyond those two, however, the supporting cast looks very thin, and the experience on the bench looks almost anorexic.

Cornel Parker and Jason Williford are two returning starters of a year ago, but Parker's ball-handling skills are a little suspect, and Williford averaged only 6.1 points per game last season.

Center Ted Jeffries graduated last year, leaving only two players on this year's team taller than 6-8. Senior Shawn Wilson stands 6-11, but scored only 0.8 points per game, and 7-1 Mark Bogosh scored eight points per contest at Bacone Junior College last year.

ACC Tournament champion Georgia Tech returns four starters and enjoys a preseason No. 17 ranking. Provided Coach Bobby Cremins can decide where he wants to coach, the Yellow Jackets could be in the hunt for the league title.

all-ACC member James Forrest returns with his 19.5 points per game average. Forrest was named ACC Tournament MVP last year and became only the fourth sophomore in Tech history to top 1,000 career points.

1993 ACC Rookie-of-the-Year Martice Moore averaged 10.5 points and 4.6 rebounds per game last season. The two other returning starters are third-team all-ACC member Travis Best and Drew Barry. Barry and Best combined for 340 assists last year.

Malcolm Mackey left for the NBA, and leaves a glowing weakness in the paint for the Jackets.

see ACC, page 5

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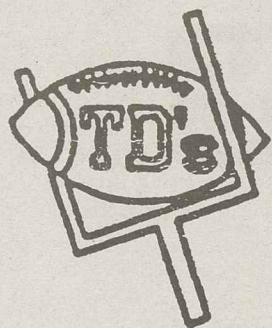
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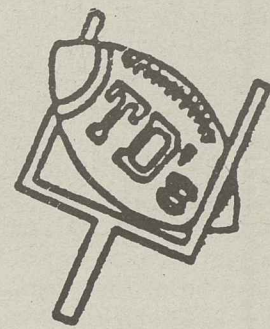


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ACC, from page 4

Ivano Newbill seems to be the heir to Mackey's throne in the middle, but the 6-10 senior averaged only 2.8 points per game last year in limited action. However, with players accounting for 56.8 points per game last year returning this season, a basic defensive presence in the paint should be enough to tally a few marks in the win column for the Jackets.

Gone are Sam Cassell and Doug Edwards, who were both drafted into the NBA, but **Florida State** still has 1991-92 Rookie-of-the-Year Bob Sura and point guard/Heisman candidate Charlie Ward.

Sura is the ACC's top-returning scorer after averaging 19.9 points and 6.1 rebounds in 1993. Ward, who will join the team in January after playing for the football National Championship against Nebraska, averaged 7.8 points, 5.5 assists and 2.8 steals per contest a year ago.

Besides Cassell and Edwards, Rodney Dobard graduated, leaving three open spots on the starting roster. Senior Chuck Graham played sparingly last season due to injury, but should move into the starting two-guard spot, moving Sura to small-forward. Seven-foot junior Andre Reid looks to be the leading candidate for the center position after averaging 3.4 points and 4.2 rebounds in only five games last season. Sophomore Derrick Carroll (5.4 PPG/2.6 RPG) could take the remaining vacancy as strong forward.

Wake Forest without Rodney Rogers is like the Chicago Bulls without Michael Jordan or the Boston Celtics without Reggie Lewis. The junior All-American

The Tiger's predicted order of finish:

1. UNC
2. Duke
3. Virginia
4. Ga. Tech
5. Fla. State
6. Clemson
7. Wake
8. Maryland
9. N.C. State

was drafted by the Denver Nuggets last season and took his 21.2 scoring average with him.

Junior Randolph Childress returns to lead the team from the point position after a second-team all-ACC year in which he scored 19.7 points per game. He led the league in three-pointers per game and scored in double figures 33 games in a row.

Charlie Harrison will complement Childress at the other guard spot, but the Georgetown transfer of a year ago shot only 36 percent from the field and averaged 6.1 points per game. Trelonnie Owens is the third returning starter and scored 11.1 points per game last season.

There is not much beyond those three players. Marc Blucas displayed his shooting touch last season, knocking down 51 percent of his three-point shots, but the days of slow, one-dimensional shooters died in the 1950s. Coach Dave Odom was forced to recruit out of the country for his players, signing Makhtar Ndiaye from Senegal, Tim Duncan from the Virgin Islands and Ricardo Peral from Spain. Coupled with the possible NCAA investigations

hovering over the program, this year may not be one to remember for the Demon Deacons.

Maryland has a very young team, as there are no seniors and only three juniors.

Sophomores Johnny Rhodes (14.0 PPG/3.3 APG) and forward Exree Hipp (11.3 PPG/4.9 RPG), both ACC all-freshmen, are the only two returning starters. After a 12-16 record last year, the Terapins may be a year or two away from greatness.

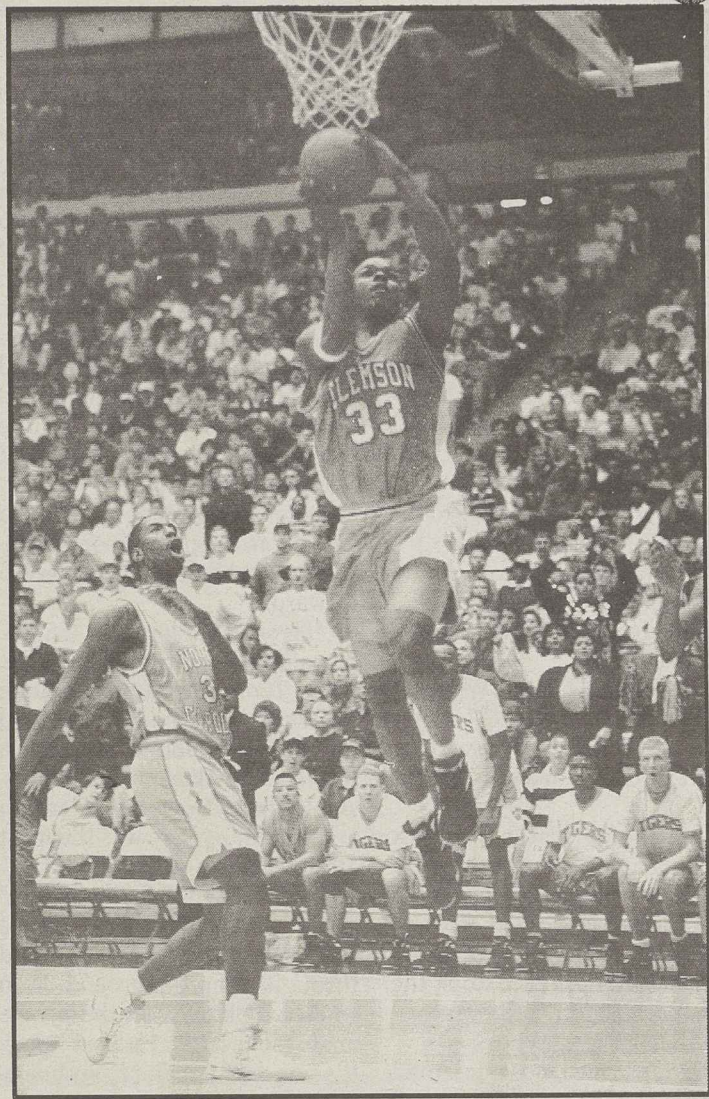
North Carolina State was 8-19 last season, due mainly to injuries and academic suspensions, and though the reasons may change, this year doesn't look to be much different.

Coach Les Robinson almost had Jerry Stackhouse's commitment to play for the Wolfpack, but he backed out at the last second and decided to play for Dean Smith and the Tar Heels.

Lakista McCuller returns after averaging 10.3 points per game, and point guard Curtis Marshall also returns after scoring 10.6 per game.

N.C. State looks to be joined by Maryland and Wake Forest in the ACC cellar this season.

Gina Jackson/staff photographer



Two for two for UNC?

Brian Reese and the Tar Heels figure to finish atop the ACC, but not if Devin Gray has anything to say.

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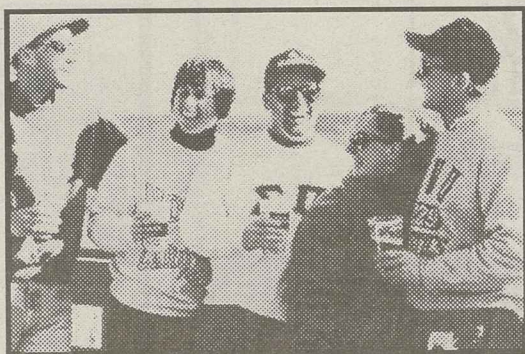
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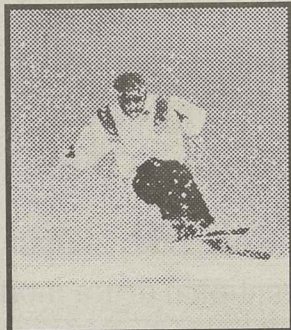
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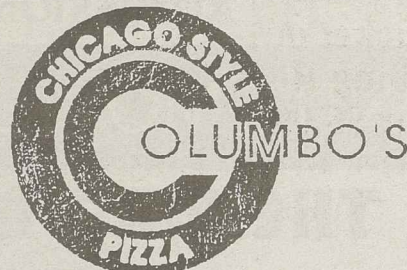
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Ragland predicts big things for ACC season

by Edan Ballantine
assistant sports editor

A buzz sizzles through the crowd as the lights are cut.

A powerful blast of music is heard through the loudspeakers, and the spotlight captures 14 orange-clad athletes trotting out of the locker room and onto the basketball court.

The announcer bellows, "At point guard, Lou Richie!"

The 5-9 assistinator jogs to the center of the floor.

"At shooting guard, Andre Bovain!"

The veteran defensive standout joins Richie.

"At center, Sharone Wright!"

The third-team all-ACC center lumbers to join his teammates.

"At power forward, Devin Gray!"

The leading scorer from last year's team strolls across the court amidst overwhelming applause.

"And at small forward, Rayfield Ragland!"

Suddenly, the music stops, the lights go back on, and everyone asks themselves, "Who?"

Perhaps the most talented member of Coach Cliff Ellis' small recruiting class this year, Ragland played at Chipola Junior College before deciding to compete at Clemson. While Merl Code, a freshman, and Kyle Freeman, a sophomore, are both talented, they're still younger than Ragland, who has two years of college basketball experience under his belt.

The Florence, Ala., native av-

eraged 26.2 points and eight rebounds per game during the 1991-92 basketball season. He was the second leading scorer and fourth leading rebounder in the state of Florida and was named all-state, conference MVP and Juco All-American in his last year of eligibility. Ragland, who was supposed to attend CU last year, attended Connors State Junior College due to academic reasons, but didn't play basketball.

When it came time to choose a college, many programs were interested in the talents of the 6-6 forward.

"I looked at Florida State, Alabama, Auburn, Mississippi State, LSU, Tennessee and a couple other Division I schools," said Ragland, but finally it came down to Clemson, Alabama and Mississippi State. However, Clemson and its atmosphere was the most attractive.

"I just liked their tradition," revealed Ragland. "They sent me stuff like books, and I read through everything, and then when I took my visit the people made me feel like I was at home. It's somewhat similar to my hometown."

Ragland will play against some of the best players in the country, in perhaps the best basketball conference in the country, with four teams ranked in the top 25. With regards to playing in the ACC, however, he simply remarked, "I love it."

Playing for a team that rarely commands respect from pollsters or analysts, Ragland feels that he,

and his 13 other cohorts, have a unique opportunity to challenge for the league title.

"There's no doubt in my mind, I think CU will be a surprise to everyone this year," stated Ragland. "I think we'll finish much higher than what the media predicted us to finish."

Ragland will be playing with Wright and Gray, who combined to average 31.7 points and 16 rebounds per game last year. To be successful, Ragland knows the key players must receive support from the rest of the team, himself included.

"I know that everyone on the team knows the word 'team' means together," stressed Ragland. "Everyone achieves more. I know we'll pull together and do pretty good."

Ragland believes that Corey Wallace, who received a medical redshirt last season due to a shoulder injury, will be the biggest surprise of the season.

"They missed his inside and outside shooting last year," said Ragland. "Frank Tomera will also come around. Another one to look for is Wayne Buckingham — he lost 35 pounds in the off-season."

The point guard spot, considered by many to be the weak link on this year's team, doesn't worry Ragland. The three main competitors, Code, Freeman and Richie, all have the talent to contribute from the position.

"Well, we're young at the guard position, but I think we'll end up being pretty strong," he predicted.

"I think it [starting position] will be between Lou and Merl; it's hard to distinguish which of the two will start because both of them are pretty good."

Ragland may have the most all-around athletic talent on the team. He signed a football scholarship with Auburn right out of high school as an option-quarterback, and he was also a late-round pick of the Toronto Blue Jays, but grades decided which sport he was going to pursue.

"I had signed with Auburn to play football out of high school, but you had to have an 18 on the ACT test, and I made a 17. I was also being recruited for basket-

ball, but not as highly," he said. "I didn't want to sit out, so I went to the junior college to play basketball."

Although a pure small forward, Ragland doesn't see a designated spot for himself on the team. "With the depth we have on the team, there's no telling who will be starting. Anybody can play any position."

Ragland foresees a positive outcome of this year's season.

"I think we'll come within the top three" of the ACC, he predicted. "I can't say whether we'll be one, two or three, but we'll definitely finish within the top three."

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Clemson looks for 20-win season

Texas-Arlington? Where does the athletic department find these teams? Ah, who cares. Clemson's basketball season is here once again. This year brings a lot of promise to Tiger Town as CU tries to get into post-season play for the second straight season. This time the Tigers will be shooting for the NAAs instead of the NIT.

Clemson again possesses a weak non-conference schedule, with the exception of a matchup on the road with Minnesota and the Rainbow Classic. The Golden Gophers are currently ranked 15th in this week's AP poll and will prove to be a tough matchup for the Tigers. One can only guess that when scheduling Minnesota, CU thought they would get the Timberwolves instead. Oh well, at least it will give Devin Gray and Sharone Wright a chance to show out against a quality non-ACC opponent. Those two will not be enough though, as Voshon Lenard and Randy Carter guide the Gophers to the victory.

Clemson does get to participate in the Rainbow Classic during Christmas Break though. The Tigers will be having fun in the sun while in Hawaii, but not while they're on the court. CU faces an Evansville team that has made the NAAs the past two years and has a possible date with two top 10 teams, Louisville and Oklahoma State. Evansville will be a tough foe, but the Tigers will squeak out the win. Up next will be the might Fighting Rainbows of the University of Hawaii. I'm not quite sure how a rainbow can fight but I know that the Tigers will find gold as the horn sounds at the end of the game. In the championship game, Clemson will find themselves pitted against the mighty Cardinals of Louisville. Denny Crum easily out-coaches Cliff and the Cards walk away with the title but the Tigers walk away with respect for their gritty effort.

The Tigers will also have to face the likes of Furman, The

Citadel, Davidson, UNC-Charlotte, Mercer, App. State, South Carolina and my personal favorite, yesterday's opponent, Charleston Southern. Eddie Fogler's boys at USC might give the Tigers a run for the money but they look to be a few years away from being a quality program. Clemson should walk over the rest and that will help them with their record once NCAA bids are handed out.

The ACC season again opens up with the Duke Blue Devils but this time it's at Littlejohn and on ESPN. The power of Dickie V. will help lead the Tigers to an exciting upset and a Top 25 ranking.



Lou Potenza
Sports Editor

ing. Virginia is the next team for CU and well, does a team that scores 36 points at home really scare you? It sure doesn't faze the Tigers as they win their second straight in the conference.

Up next is the hard part, road games. Clemson must travel to Chapel Hill, where they never win and Tallahassee where, I promise, they will score points but not enough to win.

Wake Forest comes into town and the Tigers quickly stop their longest losing streak of the season and send the Deacons back home wondering why Rodney Rodgers left them.

Maryland proves to be tougher than preseason expectations, and drops CU to 3-3 in the conference as Exree Hipp, Johnny Rhodes, Keith Booth and Joe Smith light up the scoreboard.

The Tigers quickly rebound, literally, as they drop both N.C. State and Georgia Tech at

Littlejohn. The Tigers hope to use the win against the nationally ranked Yellow Jackets as a spring board towards the rematch with Duke.

The spring board effect worked for Clemson, unfortunately there was no water in the pool. Duke gets their revenge against CU and keeps them winless on the road in the ACC. But not for long because UVA is on the horizon.

Virginia proves to everyone how extremely over rated they were to start the season and fall to the Tigers. The Cavs are able to produce more than 36 points but so are the Tigers as they pull out an exciting victory and a sweep of the season series.

Dickie V. fails to again work his magic as the Tigers fall to UNC in front of a national audience on ESPN. Sharone Wright does show why he was chosen preseason all-ACC over Eric Montross though as he does exactly that, scores all over Montross. It is the first (and last) home loss for the Tigers. The Seminoles of FSU visit the Tigers and CU claims revenge as they send the 'Noles home with a loss.

Wake Forest's Randolph Childress lights up the scoreboard and there isn't much the Tigers can do as the Deacons stop the Tigers in their path.

The Terps visit Littlejohn and are greeting in a very unfriendly manner. Clemson stops Maryland's version of the Fab Four as they roll to their 13th home victory of the season.

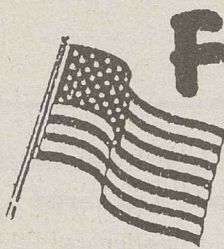
Clemson grabs its ninth conference win and 20th of the year at the expense of N.C. State but ends the season on a down note as they fall at the hands of the defending ACC champs, Georgia Tech.

CU assures there won't be a repeat champion though, as they knock off the third seeded Yellow Jackets in the first round of the ACCs. The Tigers regular season ends at 21-10 as Duke once again knocks CU for a loop in the ACC semifinals, but a NCAA at-large bid is awarded to the Tigers.

Maybe 9-7 in the ACC and 20 wins is a bit far fetched for this year's squad but stranger things have happened. Hell, Clemson won the ACC just four short years ago.

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Tigers look for Wright Stuff

by Rob Graham
assistant sports editor

Will the 1993-94 basketball season finally be kind to the Clemson Tigers and Cliff Ellis by awarding them with a NCAA tournament bid? Can the Tigers dig themselves out of the bottom three of the ACC? Will the Tigers suffer greatly with the loss of Chris Whitney at point guard?

We will all know the answers to these questions soon enough as the Tigers begin their '93-94 campaign for a NCAA tourney bid.

This season marks Ellis' 10th season as the Tiger mastermind of hoops. He's coached CU to the school's first ACC regular season championship, seven postseason tournaments, bids to three NCAAs and four NITs. He has one year left on his contract and needs to have a good season or he could be looking for a new job in April.

Center

Sharone Wright just might be the best center ever to wear a Tiger jersey. He spent the summer competing on the international level and is expected to control the paint for CU.

The Sporting News ranked as the fourth best center in the nation this year, behind Eric Montross of UNC, Bryant Reeves of Oklahoma St., and Juwann Howard of Michigan. Dick Vitale, the No. 1 voice in college basketball or more professionally known as an analyst for ESPN and ABC Sports, lists Wright as one of the most improved centers in the nation.

"Wright is a dominator under the boards," says Vitale. "He swats shots like flies and is a triple-double threat every time he's out there."

Wright was a third-team All-ACC selection during the regular season and a second-team All-Tournament selection as a sophomore. He averaged 15 points, 10.5 boards and 4.13 blocked shots per game. He tallied 124 blocks for the year and that was good enough to rank him second in the nation for blocks per game.

Wright also led the ACC in rebounding and blocked shots per game and had the second triple-double in ACC history in a conference game.

Over the summer, Wright was the second leading scorer and rebounder for the NIT All-Star team that toured all over Europe last May. He then finished in the top three scorers and rebounders on the United States team that competed in the World University Games in July.

Backing up Wright will be 6-11 sophomore Frank Tomera.

Forwards

Devin Gray returns as the Tigers' leading scorer at 16.7 points a game. Gray is a pure athlete and backs this up with his overpowering ability to explode to the basket. Twenty percent of his baskets last year came by way of thundering dunks, which helped him shoot 55 percent from the field.

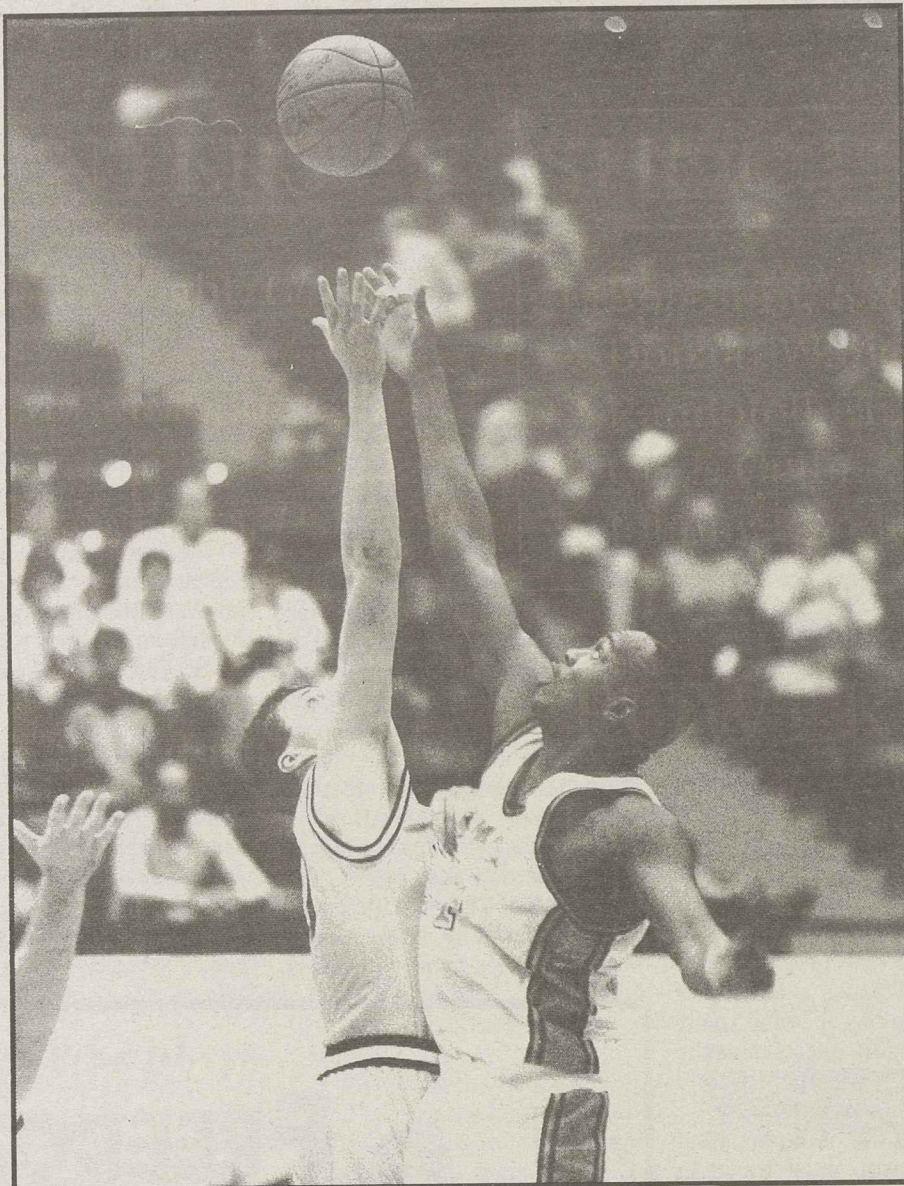
Gray was in double figures in 27 of the Tigers' 30 games, which included 12 20-point games. He was an honorable mention All-ACC selection last year and also averaged 1.75 steals per game. He tied a school record for steals in the game against The Citadel, with seven and totaled 60 on the year. That total ranked him second in Clemson history.

Gray also returns as the second leading rebounder on the team and will be asked to become more of a winnow man to take some of the pressure on Wright.

Corey Wallace, a 6-6 senior forward, returns after playing only six games last season due to a severe shoulder injury. He is an excellent team leader when on the floor and will start for Ellis.

Wallace is a superb low-post defender and has a nose for the ball when battling for rebounds. If he avoids an injury-plagued season, he should average in double figures in scoring. The Tigers need to keep him healthy.

Wayne Buckingham will play his final



file photo

Sharone Wright opened the season against UT-Arlington with 22 points, 18 rebounds and three blocks.

season as a Tiger this year and everyone is waiting to see if he will put up the big numbers he is capable of putting up. He only averaged 4.3 points and 2.9 rebounds per game last season.

Guards

The Tigers return two starters at the shooting guard position. Andre Bovain, a 6-1 senior, averaged almost 10 points and five rebounds per game and might be asked to be the floor general for the Tigers this season. He hasn't played the point since his freshman year and if at all possible, would be more effective as the off-guard.

Jeff Brown is the other candidate at off-guard. He showed flashes of brilliance in the early part of last season, but struggled with injuries throughout the season. He did play his best games against ACC teams, in which he averaged over 10 points per contest.

CU also returns Bruce Martin and Lou Richie. Ellis has stated that Martin is one of the most improved players on the team, but he will have to prove it on the court this season. Being a three-point threat, Martin has to be able to knock down the open jumper when ever available.

Richie will compete for the point guard duties, as well. He is an excellent defender and was second in the ACC in assists per minute in 1992-93. Richie also pocketed 27 steals in his limited play last year.

Newcomers

Coach Ellis was only able to land three recruits, as the NCAA probation on the Tigers' recruiting tactics hindered his off-season shopping.

Rayfield Ragland, a 6-6 junior transfer from Chipola JC in Florida, will add to the Tigers' already formidable and intimidating frontline. He averaged 26 points and eight rebounds last season at Chipola and is considered as an immediate contributor.

Ragland was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays out of high school and recruited as a football player by Alabama, so there is no question about his athletic ability.

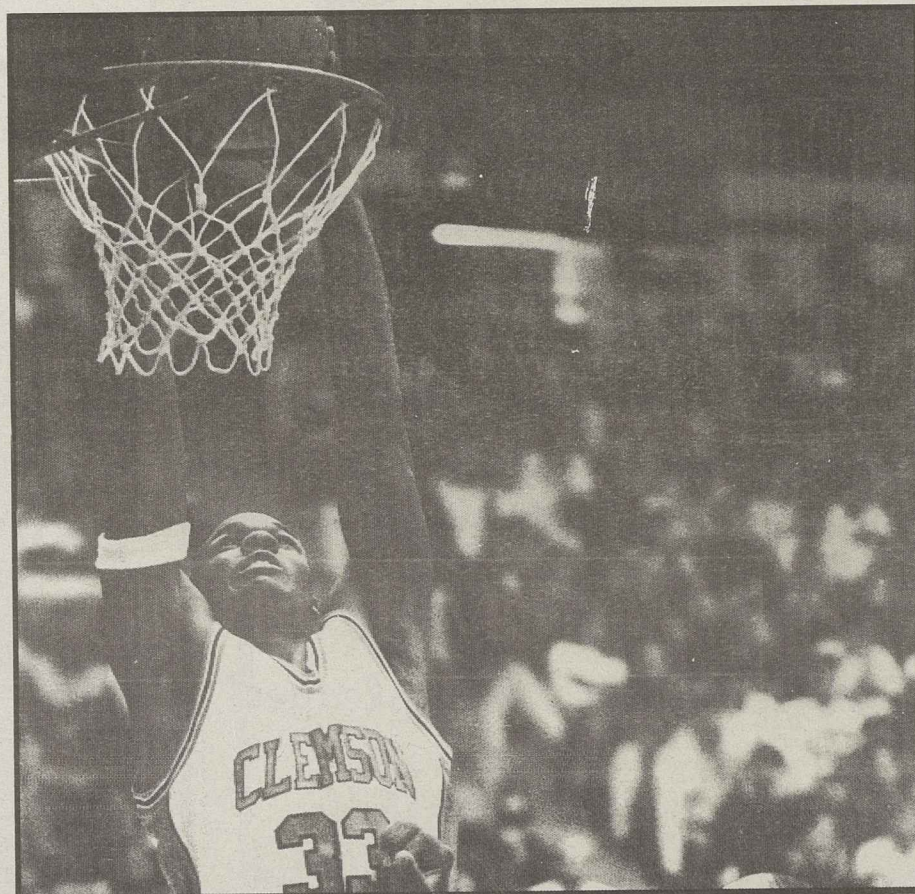
Merl Code is the only freshman on the team and will compete for the point guard position. He played for Fork Union Mili-

tary in Virginia last year, but it will be quite a change from that level of competition to the frustrating defenses found in the ACC.

Code has excellent potential, but will have to prove himself with strong consistent play.

Kyle Freeman is a 6-2 transfer from Columbia State Community College in Tennessee. He will add to depth at shooting guard, but his ability to play at this level is a question mark.

If the Tigers can solve the problem at the point guard position, they could surprise a lot of teams in the ACC. Consistency will be the most important factor for the Tigers this year and if the frontline can stay healthy, CU will prove a lot of pre-season voters wrong.



courtesy of sports information

Devin Gray hopes to carry the Tigers past their NIT appearance last season and into the NCAA tournament, where CU hasn't been since 1990, when it lost to Connecticut in the Sweet 16.

93-94 Hoops Schedule

Dec. 4	Furman
Dec. 15	@Minnesota
Dec. 18	The Citadel
Dec. 19	Davidson
Dec. 27-30	Rainbow Classic @ Honolulu
Jan. 5	Duke
Jan. 8	UNCC
Jan. 10	@Mercer
Jan. 12	Virginia
Jan. 15	@UNC
Jan. 19	@FSU
Jan. 22	Wake Forest
Jan. 24	App. State
Jan. 26	@Maryland
Jan. 29	N. C. State
Feb. 2	Ga. Tech
Feb. 5	@Duke
Feb. 9	USC
Feb. 12	@Virginia
Feb. 17	UNC
Feb. 19	FSU
Feb. 22	@Wake
Feb. 26	Maryland
Mar. 2	@N. C. State
Mar. 5	@Ga. Tech
Mar. 10-13	ACC Tournament



The Tiger's BEST OF THE ACC



CENTERS

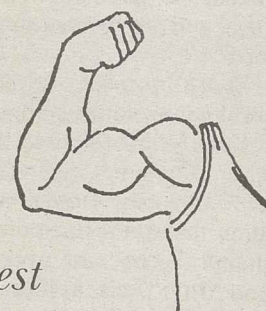
1. Sharone Wright, *Clemson*
2. Eric Montross, *UNC*
3. Cherokee Parks, *Duke*
4. Andre Reid, *FSU*
5. Kevin Salvadori, *UNC*

SHOOTING GUARDS

1. Bob Sura, *FSU*
2. Donald Williams, *UNC*
3. Randolph Childress, *Wake Forest*
4. Chris Collins, *Duke*
5. Johnny Rhodes, *Maryland*

POWER FORWARDS

1. James Forrest, *Ga. Tech*
2. Devin Gray, *Clemson*
3. Junior Burrough, *UVA*
4. Jerry Stackhouse, *UNC*
5. Trelonnie Owens, *Wake Forest*

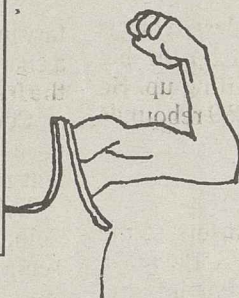


POINT GUARDS

1. Travis Best, *Ga. Tech*
2. Derrick Phelps, *UNC*
3. Cory Alexander, *UVA*
4. Charlie Ward, *FSU*
5. Charlie Harrison, *Wake Forest*

SMALL FORWARDS

1. Grant Hill, *Duke*
2. Brian Reese, *UNC*
3. Exree Hipp, *Maryland*
4. Martice Moore, *Ga. Tech*
5. Brian Feggins, *N.C. State*



NEWCOMERS

1. Jerry Stackhouse, *UNC*
2. Rasheed Wallace, *UNC*
3. Keith Booth, *Maryland*
4. Jeff Capel, *Duke*
5. Harold Deane, *UVA*

FANS

1. Cameron Crazies
2. North Carolina
3. Georgia Tech
4. N. C. State
5. Florida St.



TRASH TALKERS

1. Bob Sura, *FSU*
2. Sharone Wright, *Clemson*
3. James Forrest, *Ga. Tech*
4. Devin Gray, *Clemson*
5. Derrick Phelps, *UNC*



UNIFORMS

1. UNC's warmups
2. FSU's gold
3. Clemson's orange
4. Ga. Tech's gold
5. Pat Kennedy's ties

Illustrations
by Terry
Manning

Rules changes will have impact

by Geoff Wilson
editor-in-chief

This season, Tiger fans will not have a chance to see Chris Whitney called for a five-second violation as the 45-second clock winds down.

This scenario is impossible, however, for three reasons, not just the lone fact that Whitney graduated. For this year, there is no five-second violation, and the shot clock has been reduced from 45 seconds to 35.

The moves come in an attempt to speed up the game, particularly the last two minutes of regulation and overtime.

Another change designed with that goal in mind is the stopping of the game clock after a basket in the last minute of regulation and of overtime.

Several prominent coaches have voiced concern over the manner in which the changes were passed. The rules committee for the NCAA is comprised of only 14 voting members, including six Division I coaches, and three apiece from Division II and Division III. Thus, the votes of only eight coaches were needed to approve the changes.

Critics of the changes themselves say there is no need to tinker with a formula that has brought a never-before seen enthusiasm for the game at the college level. There is also a general consensus that underdogs will win fewer games because of the changes.

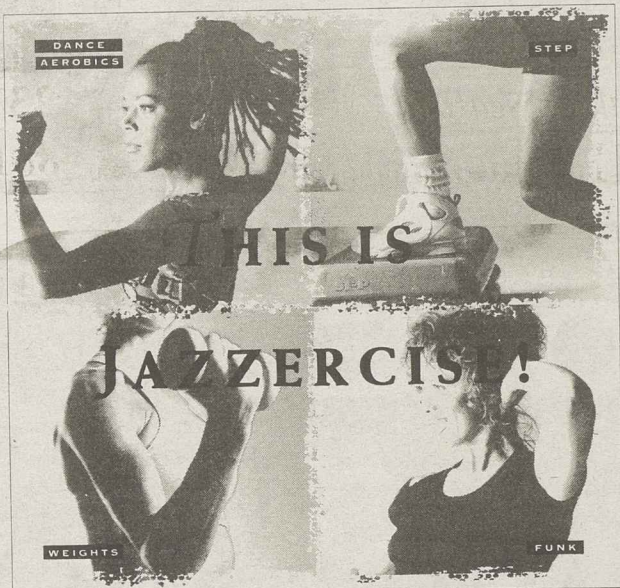
Detractors answer that the changes do not come at a particularly bad time, and that other changes, such as the original installation of the 45-second clock and the addition of the three-point basket, were at first resisted. In addition, they argue, the decided advantage going to the more talented team is not a new phenomenon.

Where do all these changes leave Clemson? In theory, the Tigers will be hurt by the rules for two major reasons.

First, the elimination of the five-second rule will aid teams with established point guards, and that position is the one at which the Tigers appear weakest.

Second, the ability to break pressure comes with players' experience playing together, of which Clemson has little.

However, no one will know the full impact on CU until March.



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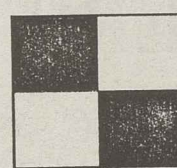
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Wright too much for Mavs

22 points, 18 boards lead CU past UT-A

by Rob Graham
assistant sports editor

The Clemson Tigers opened the 1993-94 basketball season with an 86-55 trouncing of Texas-Arlington. Junior center Sharone Wright led the way with 22 points, 18 rebounds and three blocked shots in 22 minutes of play.

It took Cliff Ellis' team the first twenty minutes and halftime to realize that this game counted.

CU was basically non-existent in the first half and possibly troubled by the piercing eyes of spectators analyzing every move or shot. They didn't begin mounting their halftime lead of nine (38-29), until there was about two minutes left.

The Tigers came storming out of the locker rooms to start the second half as Wright took over with his inside game consisting of spin moves to get open topped off by in-your-face slams. UT-Arlington had know way of stopping Wright, who with his strong inside play, freed up the outside

shot for Andre Bovain, Merl Code and Bruce Martin.

"They overpowered us," said Texas-Arlington head coach Eddie McCarter. "We come from the Southland Conference and we played a team from one of the best conferences in the country. They wore us down and some of our shots didn't drop, which will happen if you're fatigued."

Rayfield Ragland, a 6-6 junior who transferred from Chipola JC in Florida, pitched in with 15 points and seven rebounds. Bovain finished the game with nine points and seven rebounds. He ran the point for most of the second half.

Freshman point guard Merl Code showed some promise by sinking two three-pointers and another basket for eight points and dishing out four assists.

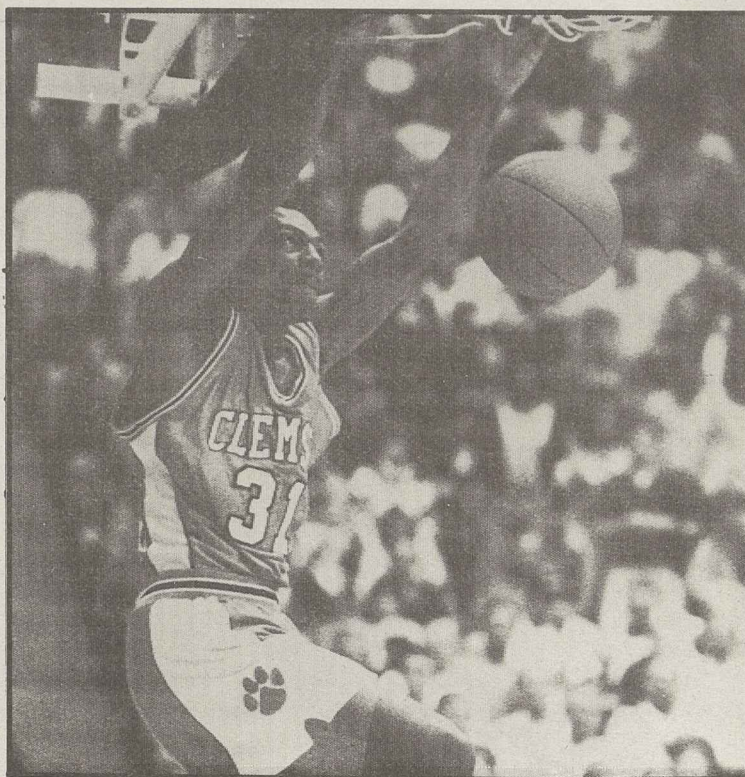
"I was extremely nervous, because this was my first collegiate game," Code said. "I had played in the exhibitions, but this was different. There were people in the stands and the game counted.

But once we scored a few baskets, the jitterbugs left."

The Tigers did show some areas where improvement will be an absolute necessity if they wish to be competitive in the ACC. They turned the ball over a total of 19 times and were once again sluggish at the foul line, making only 10-of-22 from the strike.

CU was impressive on the defensive end of the floor as UT-Arlington shot a dismal 29.5 percent from the floor. Only one player for the Mavericks scored in double figures.

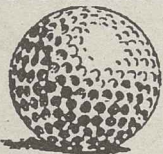
Devin Gray and Lou Richie sat the bench for this game, which will be the final game of their three game suspensions. Gray led the Tigers in scoring (16.7 ppg) and was second in rebounding, as he pulled down almost six a game.



courtesy of sports information

Andre Bovain slams home two of his nine points.

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Volleyball team lands first-ever NCAA bid

Hoover coaches CU to best win pct. in history

by Lou Potenza
sports editor

The Clemson women's volleyball team received a bid to the 1993 NCAA Championships. The Lady Tigers played host to the University of Houston last night in Jervy Gym.

The winner of the Clemson-Houston match will move on to play Florida in Gainesville in the second round to be played this Saturday.

Clemson has a 27-7 record on the year, while the Cougars have

a record of 19-15 this season.

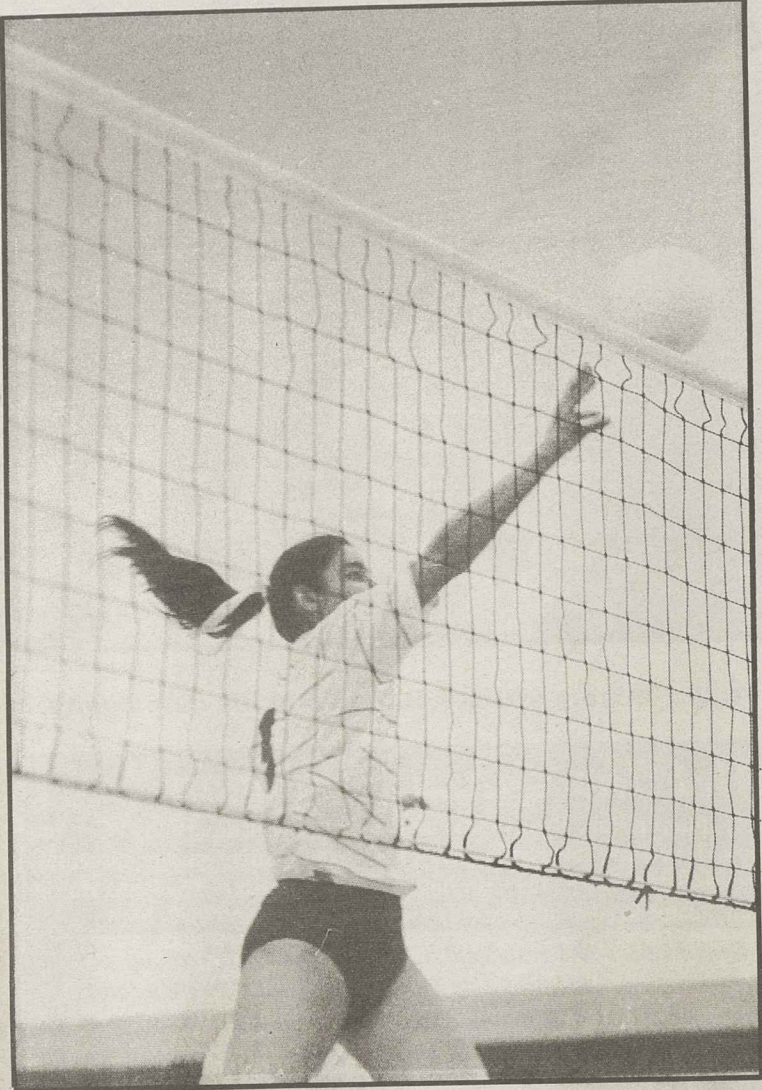
The Lady Tigers are led by first-team All-ACC performer Robin Kibben. Kibben has 585 kills this season and has a .357 hitting percentage. Clemson also boasts ACC Rookie-of-the-Year Julie Rodriguez, who is second on the team in the number of kills with 372. She possess a hitting percentage of .268.

This is the first NCAA bid for the Clemson program. Head coach Jolene Hoover is in her first year with the Lady Tigers and their winning percentage this season,

.768, is the highest percentage of any team in Lady Tiger history.

"We are happy with the opportunity to play in the NCAA tournament," said Hoover. "It is a credit to our players and their hard work this season. We are pleased to have reached this goal of going to the NCAA tournament this season."

However, to advance past the second round, the Lady Tigers must defeat Florida, and the Lady Gators are 30-3 on the season. CU lost at Florida last year in the only series meeting.



file photo

Kelly Stewart in action earlier this season.

At press time, the first round NCAA Tournament game between Clemson and Houston had not been played. The winner plays next at Florida.

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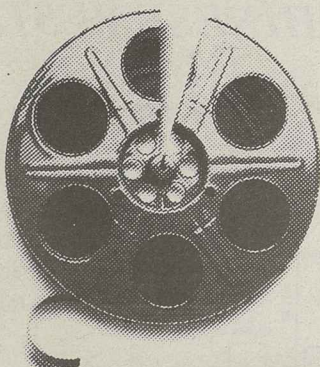
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Photo by Ken Nahoum

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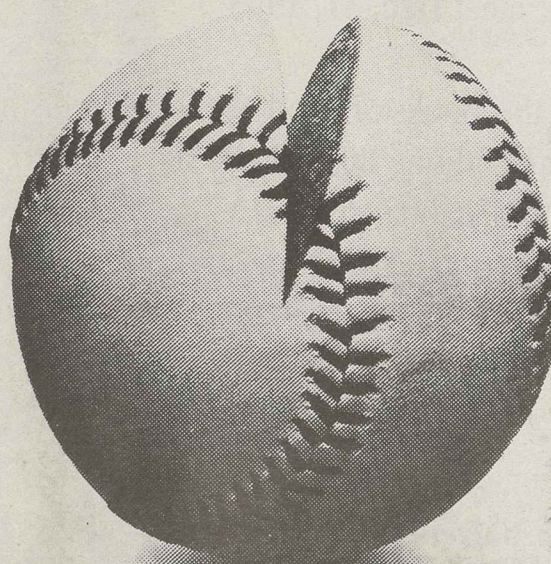
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What you get back is immeasurable. Get involved with the causes you care about and give five.

HATFIELD, from page 16

commitment at this time. Therefore, we have agreed to develop a resolution and agreement for separation."

Hatfield explained his request for an extension as a necessity for effective recruiting:

"Continuity is the most important thing in any type of program," he said. "If you're going to recruit at the highest level, to try and win the national championship, you've got to have some assurance that you're going to be there. I just told [the university], I couldn't go out and recruit right now, after an eight and three year and going to a bowl game, and have a mother ask me, 'How long are you going to be there?' and say, 'I don't know.' I couldn't go out there and do that or have my coaches go out there and do that."

Hatfield explained that the circumstances for his leaving were actually agreed on four years ago upon his coming to Clemson from Arkansas. "We agreed then that, if for any reason, [the University] felt my contract could not be extended, two years in a row, that I would interpret that as a lack of a desire for me to remain at Clemson, and I would leave," said Hatfield.

Robinson, a controversial figure at Clemson since the departure of former coach Danny Ford, was challenged several times during the conference for his role in the Hatfield departure. One observer even asked if Robinson thought it might "bring back the Clemson family" if he were to resign along with Hatfield. Robinson answered, "Yes," but added that he currently had no plans to resign.

Robinson also added that the money for Hatfield's compensation would not be taken from IPTAY contributions, student fees or state funding. "The money will come from athletic revenues," said Robinson. "From gate receipts and other revenues."

The decision not to extend Hatfield's contract was not entirely dependent on the football team's season record, explained Robinson. Game attendance was a factor. Hatfield said he understood the importance of home field advantage and that fans who stayed away from Clemson home games in protest of his appearance "burned my butt."

"[The team] deserved better," added Hatfield, "and everybody that's a so-called 'fan' and stayed away, you ain't no fan. You may be telling everybody you are but you're not. If you want to be a fan, you better come, no matter who the coach is or who the player is, 'cause the team deserves that."

Hatfield hinted that there were insiders at Clemson working against him. This was speculated on earlier in the semester when it was revealed (*The Tiger*, Nov. 5) that a vigilante group of Clemson fans were sending letters to Clemson athletic recruits telling them not to come to CU. The letters were described then as "error-laden, poorly written, and [containing] vulgar language."

"Unity and loyalty are rare qualities," said Hatfield, "and I think it made it difficult for everyone to be together. I do want to praise you fans who did come, who did watch, who did write and support the team. You are the real essence of a Fighting Tiger."

WILSON, from page 16

campus for the holiday, and those students who were still here weren't allowed in the conference. Obviously, Robinson, Lennon and crew figured that fewer students on campus would make for less criticism, and the whole incident would be on the backburner by the beginning of the week.

Let me qualify that last statement. The incident would have been nearly forgotten if Robinson had been able to get the man he wanted for Clemson's next coach. But Baylor head man Chuck Reedy declined CU's offer, reportedly because he couldn't reach an agreement on a contract.

No one would blame him if the actual reason was that he could not possibly feel secure in his job after the Hatfield debacle.

As Hatfield himself recognized, things just weren't going to work out for him here. However, the manner in which the administration handled the process was reprehensible.

Why won't Lennon and Robinson accept the heat for firing the past two Tiger coaches? Anyone who thinks Danny Ford resigned, and Ken Hatfield left as part of a "mutual agreement," must be working for the University — perhaps one of Lennon's assistants. No, he probably hires applicants who are intelligent enough to know when the wool is being pulled over their eyes.

In closing, just a brief word to the three principals involved. Coach

Hatfield, you are a truly outstanding individual and didn't deserve your dismissal in the manner you received it; best of luck in all your future endeavors. Mr. Robinson, by all your public displays regarding this situation, I can come to no other conclusion than that you are a fool; as long as you are athletic director at Clemson, our school will never have the national respect it deserves. Mr. Lennon, to borrow a phrase from Hatfield, "Shame on ya!"; you could have stepped in to stop this charade, but you wouldn't, and everyone knows it.

Let's just hope Robinson and Lennon can both deal with the overwhelming majority of people having no respect for them; they're doing a good job so far.

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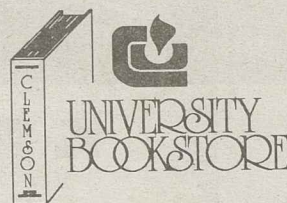
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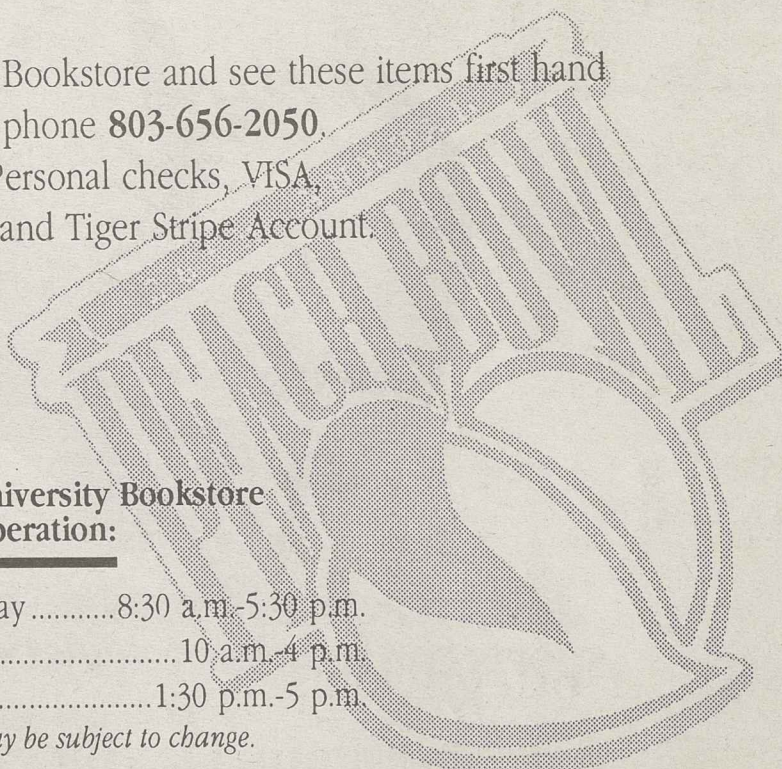
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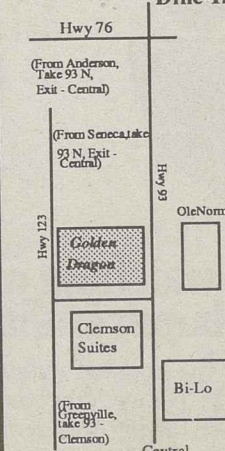
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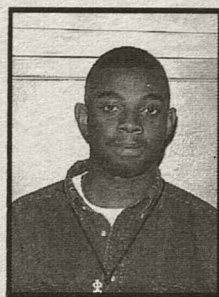
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Students speak out on Hatfield's leaving

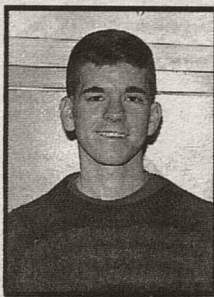
QUESTION

What do you think about Ken Hatfield resigning?



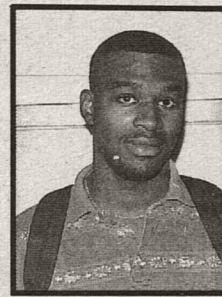
Marcus Edward
sophomore

"I think he had a legitimate reason to be mad at the fans and the school. I just wish he could have left under better circumstances."



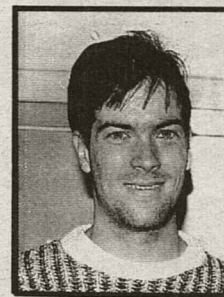
Michael Horan
sophomore

"I think the students should have been more supportive. I am glad to see he stood up for himself. I wish him luck."



Ben Singletary
sophomore

"I think he was a good coach. I think he got the bad end of the deal."



William Von Mahland
senior

"I think it is for the best at Clemson. I think it will help bestow spirit back in the students."

Photos by Larry Barthelemy
staff photographer

WEST,

from page 16

onship, beginning a decade of success on the football field, but plagued with NCAA inquiries and probation and a nationwide view of Clemson as a team of "outlaws."

On Dec. 31st, in the Peach Bowl, a former assistant coach will again lead the Tigers, and he even looks like Danny Ford.

"I think he's going to be one hell of a head coach," said John Johnson, a former linebacker who played under West at Clemson. "Clemson did a great job bringing him back there."

"A lot of players felt Coach Hatfield was an administrative coach," stated Brentson Buckner, who also played for West. "A lot of the players are excited about him [West] taking over."

West is described as a man driven to win at all costs, something the fans would like to see again in Death Valley.

"Winning and being successful, whether it's in life, in school or on the football field, has to be an obsession," West said. "It's got to be something that you can't live without."

Although only 4-7 in his first year as head coach at Tennessee-Chattanooga, his team recorded victories over Furman and Marshall.

IPTAY and the University lost thousands and thousands of revenue dollars under Hatfield even though the team finished third in the ACC.

"We can't keep losing money with the program. We've got to have someone the Clemson family is happy with and fill that stadium again, and I think Tommy West can do that," said Clemson Trustee W. G. DesChamps Jr. of Bishopville.

"I've got to get out and get around the Clemson people," said West, who received a standing ovation at the Clemson-U.T. Arlington basketball game on Monday night. "I think that's probably one of the reasons I'm sitting here. The Clemson people are not real difficult to rally. They're looking for a reason to rally, unless they've changed a lot since I left, and that hasn't been that long ago."

Rick Whitt, who coached with West at Clemson and at Tennessee-Chattanooga, said, "He's a good player kind of coach. He's demanding, but demanding in the right way as far as doing the right things."

The imminent changes planned by West include an abolition of the wishbone. Quarterback Dexter McCleon, who flourished in the wishbone offense, wondered where he stood on the team.

"I'm anxious to find out what my situation is going to be, but whatever's best for the team I'm willing to accept," he said. "I think all the guys are ready to work hard for him and ready to get started."

"I feel he's going to do a great job, and I'm going to do everything I can to help him out," stressed linebacker Tim Jones. "He's somebody that knows what people expect around him, what people expect from the football program, what people expect outside of football and what we as players expect."

*The Tiger will
return with a
regular issue
next semester.
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edition will be
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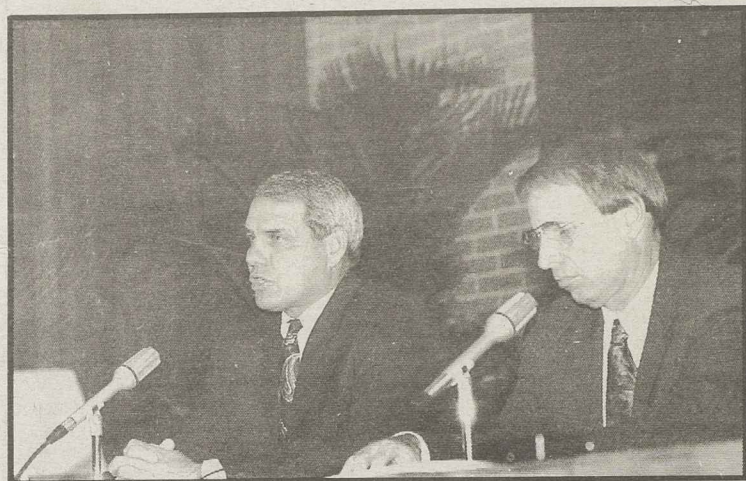
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Weeks of speculation end

Hatfield out; West in



Former coach Ken Hatfield shown with Robinson

Hatfield cites 'lack of commitment' as reason for leaving

by Terry Manning
staff writer

For many observers, the tense relationship between Clemson fans and head football coach Ken Hatfield was like a bad marriage - the question was not if it would come to an end but when. The answer came last Wednesday afternoon as CU president Max Lennon announced that the University and Hatfield had agreed to separate. Hatfield will be compensated a total of \$600,000 over the next three years.

At a press conference held at one o'clock in the Alumni Center, Lennon, Hatfield and athletic director Bobby Robinson fielded questions from a packed roomful of local media and interested onlookers.

A committee was formed recently to evaluate the football program, Lennon stated, and during the course of the evaluation, Hatfield requested an extension to his contract. His standing contract was scheduled to run through the 1996 season; his ex-

COACH KEN HATFIELD

Hatfield leaves Clemson with a final record of 32-13-1, including participating in two bowl games.

His .706 winning percentage was the sixth best in the history of the school.

His best season as head coach was 1990, his first, when the Tigers went 10-2 and ended the season with a 30-0 victory over Illinois in the Hall of Fame Bowl.

tension would have extended it through 1997. "While we completely understand and appreciate Coach Hatfield's desire for a strong endorsement and commitment from the university community," said Lennon, "we do not feel that we can make such a

see HATFIELD, page 14

What each had to say

"If you want to be a fan, you better come, no matter who the coach is... 'Cause the players deserve that."

former head
football coach
Ken Hatfield

"Winning and being successful, whether it's in life, in school or on the football field, has to be an obsession. It's got to be something that you can't live without."

new head
football coach
Tommy West



New coach Tommy West with his family and Lennon

West names winning, renewed fan support as goals for tenure

by Edan Ballantine
assistant sports editor

.....and he even looks like Danny Ford.

After ex-Clemson coach Ken Hatfield resigned last Wednesday due to pressure from fans and what he said was a lack of a commitment from the University after refusing to renew his contract for the second straight year, it took the Athletic Department exactly five days to find his successor.

On Monday ex-Clemson and ex-Ford assistant Tommy West was named as the new head football coach. West, whose only previous experience as a head coach existed with the 1993-94 University of Tennessee-Chattanooga (4-7), inherits an 8-3 Tiger team playing in the Peach Bowl.

In 1979, an assistant coach took over Charlie Pell's Clemson football team and coached his first game in the Gator Bowl. Two years later, that same coach and his team won the National Champi-

see WEST, page 15

THOMAS (TOMMY) CLEVELAND WEST

Native of Gainesville, GA.

Age: 39 (July 31, 1954)

Married to the former Lindsay Watkins, with one son, Turner, 5.

West served as outside linebacker coach under Danny Ford for eight years.

Levon Kirkland, Wayne Simmons, John Johnson, Ashley Sheppard, current NFL players, all played under West.

West played in four postseason bowls and coached in six. His only year as head coach was as UT-Chattanooga in 1993, where he went 4-7.

Robinson, Lennon need to accept blame

At about 2 p.m. Wednesday afternoon, many diehard Clemson supporters began celebrating Thanksgiving early, thanks to Ken Hatfield's announcement that he would no longer be the head football coach in TigerTown.

But to hear Hatfield's version of it, those people were not fans at all. He accused supposed Clemson "fans" of not supporting the team through bad times, as any true fan should.

Hatfield is misguided on this point: how many teams enjoy unqualified support, regardless of their performance? Fans stayed away because it was their

only way to express their frustration with the program and with Hatfield - by keeping themselves and their money from bolstering the CU Athletic Department's coffers.

Hatfield also misled the press by asserting that this year's team was the most unified one he had ever coached; anyone who covers the team or knows a player or is a friend of a player has the impression that team discord was at a four-year high.

On these two points, Hatfield appeared to be in the wrong, but in every other aspect he carried himself with as much grace and dignity as is humanly possible.

GEOFF WILSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



He acknowledged the lack of support and commitment from the administration, realized that he would be unable to stay at Clemson and be happy, and stepped down without a tarnished reputation.

The University's reputation, on the other hand, couldn't be lower, both locally and nationally. Every action by the administration, both athletic and academic, reeked of

foul play, even if the action taken was necessary. Some of the many ridiculous quotes uttered by Bobby Robinson and Max Lennon at the Wednesday conference:

Robinson: "We felt like the three years were a long enough commitment." Check your math, Einstein; Hatfield was head coach for four years!

"Obviously, if we have a coach in place, then the head coach will coach the bowl game."

"It's not a resignation and it's not a termination; it's just a separation."

"It was mutually agreed upon because we did not feel like we could extend the contract. . . I

think that is the explanation; there's nothing more to it."

"Nobody's conducting a search, somebody's strictly making phone calls on my behalf. And I'm not giving you that name. . . that's not important."

Lennon: "We feel a moral obligation to make sure that we make him [Hatfield] whole." To which Hatfield replied, "I thought I was whole." Otherwise, I'm sure he would have thanked you afterward, Saint Max.

The press conference was called after most students left

see WILSON, page 14